

Based Upon: PCT/EP99/03122

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request entry of the above Preliminary Amendment to place this Patent Application in better form for examination and prosecution before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

The claims have been amended to eliminate multiple dependent claims and to more definitely and fully claim the subject matter of Applicants' invention. Applicants urge that the above Preliminary Amendment introduces no new matter into this Patent Application.

Applicants sincerely believe that this Patent Application is now in condition for examination and prosecution before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

1. (Amended) [A] In a secure room for [devices] a device used in connection with information technology, having fireproof side walls (2) with a door (5), a floor (4) and a ceiling (3), wherein the side walls (2) are [put together] assembled from plate-shaped individual elements (S, E) which are arranged side-by-side, are designed [to be] fireproof and extend from the floor (4) to the ceiling (3), wherein fireproof sealing elements (2.5, 2.6, 2.7, 2.8) are arranged in [the] joints between the individual elements (S, D, E) having at least two fireproof layers (I, II, III), and the individual elements (S, D, E) are held against each other by [connecting means] a connection (2.9, 14)[,] which [push] pushes the sealing elements (2.5, 2.6, 2.7, 2.8) together, the improvement comprising:

[characterized in that]

the sealing elements (2.5, 2.6, 2.7, 2.8) [have] having an expanding seal (2.5) [which,] when viewed in a cross section[,] is arranged in [the] a central area and expands in [case] an event of a fire and[,] arranged laterally therefrom[,] high-temperature seals (2.5) which withstand [the development of] temperatures up to several hundred degrees [C] Centigrade, and

the individual elements (S, D, E) are constructed in layers with outside layers of steel (2.1, 3.2) arranged on [their] exteriors of the individual elements (S, D,

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E) and with at least two of the layers (I, II, III) between them[,] which withstand the [development of] temperatures up to several hundred degrees [C] Centigrade.

2. (Amended) [The] In the secure room in accordance with claim 1, wherein a

[characterized in that

the] sealing groove between [the] areas at [the] joints of the individual elements (S, D, E) is covered at least on one of [the] two outer sides by [means of] a sealing tape (2.7) [covering the sealing groove].

3. (Amended) [The] In the secure room in accordance with [one of the preceding claims,

characterized in that] claim 2, wherein

the sealing groove is closed off with a sealing material (2.8) at least on one [of its areas] area adjoining the two [outsides] outer sides.

4. (Amended) [The] In the secure room in accordance with [one of the preceding claims,

characterized in that

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the] claim 3, wherein joint sides of the individual elements (S, D, E) [are provided with] have connecting tongues (2.4).

5. (Amended) [The] In the secure room in accordance with [one of the preceding claims,

characterized in that] claim 4, wherein

the connection [means] at the outer coverings (2.1, 3.1) [have] has connecting elements (2.9) in the area of the sealing grooves, which have grooves[,] open at the sides and tapering conically toward the top, and

closure elements (14)[,] which taper toward the top[,] can be placed on the connecting elements (2.9) of the adjoining individual elements (S, D, E) [by means of] with lateral bevels and can be clampingly fixed in place.

6. (Amended) [The] In the secure room in accordance with [one of the preceding claims,

characterized in that

the] claim 5, wherein undersides of the side walls (2) are inserted into U-shaped floor profiles (2.3)[,] open toward the top, and

the seals and the connection [means] (2.9, 14) are covered[,] at least on [the] an inside of the secure room[,] with profiled linings (15).

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7. (Amended) [The] In the secure room in accordance with [one of the preceding claims,

characterized in that] claim 6, wherein

a cable duct (19) for passing cables [through] is installed in at least one side wall element (S)[,] which has an outer packing frame (19.2) with sealing modules (19.1) received therebetween, and

the sealing modules (19.1) have feed-through openings for the cables, [which] and have inner walls [which can be removed] in [the manner of onion] removable layers [in order] to adapt [the] diameters of the feed-through openings to [the] various cable diameters.

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